GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2859
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2000
HANDICAPPED
T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from Kerala State Handicapped persons Welfare Corporation for setting up an Institute for Research Development and Training on Aids and Appliances for the disabled;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a) Yes, Sir. Kerala State Handicapped Persons` Welfare Corporation has submitted a project proposal through State Government of Kerala for setting up an Institute for Research and Development and Training on Aids and Appliances for Physically Handicapped Persons.

(b) & (c) The proposal is for setting up a unit for manufacture of aids and appliances like wheel chair, hand driven tricycles, callipers, crutches, artificial limbs and hearing aids at an estimated cost of Rs. 150 lakhs with the scheme of financing as under:

(i) Soft Loan Govt. of Kerala
(repayable in 10 yrs) Rs. 25.00 lakh.
(Social Welfare Deptt.)

(ii) Govt. subsidy Rs. 25.00 lakh.

(iii) Central Govt. Grant Rs. 100.00 lakh.

The applicant organization is a public limited company promoted by Government of Kerala. The Ministry is already operating a Scheme titled `Scheme for Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of aids/appliances` under which aids and appliances are distributed to needy handicapped persons through NGOs/Institutions. In Kerala, the Ministry is already supporting 6 organizations/Institutions under this scheme. Under Grameen Punarwas Yojana, 107 districts all over India including the districts of Calicut and Trivandrum have been selected for setting up composite fitment and rehabilitation centers. ALIMCO, a public sector undertaking under the administrative control of this Ministry, which is already in the area of manufacturing and distribution of aids and appliances, is also planning to expend its activities. Thus, in view of the existing commitments and constraints of funds, the Ministry is not in a position to extend financial assistance in setting up the unit.